GRACE LUTHERAN CHAPEL

*Grace Chapel exists to make and keep disciples for Jesus Christ.*

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

**Saturday, September 5, 2020 - 4:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, September 6, 2020 - 8:00 a.m.**

*Welcome to Grace Lutheran Chapel and to our worship with Holy Communion. As Lutheran Christians we believe and confess that Christ’s Body and Blood are present in the bread and wine of Holy Communion. This meal benefits those who acknowledge and confess their sin and trust in Christ alone for their salvation. Where Christ’s true body and blood are present, so also is the forgiveness of sins and eternal life. Baptized and instructed Christians who share in this belief are welcome to this meal of our Lord’s grace and forgiveness.*

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS/GREETING

OPENING HYMN “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” No. 686

**1 Come, Thou Fount of ev’ry blessing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
 Streams of mercy, never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise.
 While the hope of endless glory Fills my heart with joy and love,
Teach me ever to adore Thee; May I still Thy goodness prove.**

**2 Here I raise my Ebenezer, Hither by Thy help I’ve come;
 And I hope, by Thy good pleasure, Safely to arrive at home.
 Jesus sought me when a stranger, Wand’ring from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger, Interposed His precious blood.**

**3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor Daily I’m constrained to be;
 Let that grace now like a fetter Bind my wand’ring heart to Thee:
 Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; Prone to leave the God I love.
Here’s my heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts above.**

**4 Oh, that day when freed from sinning, I shall see Thy lovely face;
 Clothed then in the blood-washed linen, How I’ll sing Thy wondrous grace!
 Come, my Lord, no longer tarry; Take my ransom’d soul away;
Send Thine angels soon to carry Me to realms of endless day.**

LITURGY - Divine Service 1, p. 151 in *Lutheran Service Book* *(please stand)*

INVOCATION

 *In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

**Amen.**

 *If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*

**But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

*Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.*

**Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

*Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

**Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE “This Is the Feast,” p. 155





 

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SALUTATION

 *The Lord be with you.*

 **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

*Let us pray. O God, our gracious and loving Father, we are Your dependent children. Although we in no way deserve Your goodness, You freely offer Your grace to all who turn to You. Grant us faith to trust in Your Son, who humbled Himself for our salvation. We pray this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

**Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING Ezekiel 33:7-9

**7**“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you

 hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. **8**If I say to the

wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to

turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will

require at your hand. **9**But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not

turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your

soul.

 *This is the Word of the Lord.* **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE Romans 13:1-10

 Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. **2**Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. **3**For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, **4**for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. **5**Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. **6**For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. **7**Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

 **8**Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. **9**For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” **10**Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

 *This is the Word of the Lord.*  **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 18:1-20

 At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” **2**And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them **3**and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. **4**Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

**5**“Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, **6**but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

 **7**“Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! **8**And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. **9**And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

**10**“See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. **12**What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? **13**And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. **14**So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

 **15**“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. **16**But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. **17**If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. **18**Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. **19**Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. **20**For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

 *This is the Gospel of the Lord.* **Praise to You, O Christ.**

NICENE CREED, p. 158

 **I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

 **And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And he will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

 **And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

OFFERING PRAYER

SERMON “The Medieval Parable of the Lost Sheep”

 Matthew 18:1-20 – Pastor Eric Stacy

SERMON HYMN "The King of Love My Shepherd Is” No. 709

 **1 The King of love my shepherd is, Whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am His  And He is mine forever.**

 **2 Where streams of living water flow, My ransomed soul He leadeth
And, where the verdant pastures grow, With food celestial feedeth.**

 **3 Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, But yet in love He sought me
And on His shoulder gently laid And home rejoicing brought me.**

 **4 In death’s dark vale I fear no ill With Thee, dear Lord, beside me,
Thy rod and staff my comfort still, Thy cross before to guide me.**

 **5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight; Thine unction grace bestoweth;
And, oh, what transport of delight From Thy pure chalice floweth!**

 **6 And so through all the length of days Thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise Within Thy house forever!**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people*

*according to their needs.

For all the children of God, the Holy Christian Church, that we proclaim the salvation of Christ wherever we are and to whomever we meet, let us pray to the Lord.*

 **Father, we depend on You as we share the Good News.**

*For the living out of our vocations, that no matter our station in life or what calling we have been given, that we faithfully represent our Savior with lives of humility and faith, let us pray to the Lord.*

 **Father, we depend on You as we serve You with our lives.**

*For all children, that they grow daily in the wisdom of the Lord, and for all parents and those who work to care for children, that they be guided in their important service of love, let us pray to the Lord.*

 **Father, we depend on You as we live as Your children.**

*For all public servants who selflessly serve others, both those who serve locally and those in positions throughout the world, that they would entrust their lives into the protecting care of their Maker, let us pray to the Lord.*

 **Father, we depend on You for Your protection.**

*For all who suffer in heart, mind, and body, that they with patience and faith receive the healing care You offer, let us pray to the Lord.*

 **Father, we depend on You for Your healing touch.**

*For these concerns and for every unspoken prayer that is on our hearts and minds, that our gracious God would hear and answer us, let us pray to the Lord,*

 **Father, we depend on You for everything. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.**

LORD’S PRAYER, p. 162

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

WORDS OF OUR LORD, p. 162

  *Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”*

 *In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”*

PAX DOMINI, p. 163

 *The peace of the Lord be with you always.*

**Amen.**

DISMISSAL BLESSING, p. 210

*The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart + in peace.*

**Amen.**

BENEDICTION

*The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.*

**Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION *DURING SINGING OF THE CLOSING HYMN*

CLOSING HYMN “Children of the Heavenly Father” No. 725

**1 Children of the heav’nly Father Safely in His bosom gather;
Nestling bird nor star in heaven Such a refuge e’er was given.**

**2 God His own doth tend and nourish; In His holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things He spares them; In His mighty arms He bears them.**

**3 Neither life nor death shall ever From the Lord His children sever;
Unto them His grace He showeth, And their sorrows all He knoweth.**

**4 Though He giveth or He taketh, God His children ne’er forsaketh;
His the loving purpose solely To preserve them pure and holy.**

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POSTLUDE

*Grace is for all!*